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# Making a Difference

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## Making a Difference

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

Luke Sherwin enjoys serving others with his talents and time. The physical therapy student at Andrews University has long been involved at his home church as a piano player. Two years ago, he decided to take his talents across the world and serve as a student missionary.



Luke Sherwin

Luke had considered student missions throughout his undergraduate studies. During his senior year, he switched his major to physical therapy and found himself with a year off before beginning the program.

"I didn't want to spend that year sitting around at home. I wanted to do something that felt like I was making a difference in the world," says Luke. "The SM thing just popped right out to me."

In summer 2011, Luke flew to the island of Chuuk, one of the four states of Micronesia, where he would spend the year as a high school teacher.

The experience was one he hadn't expected. Luke spent his days teaching PE and science classes like chemistry and biology, and "trying to stay away from the heat," he recalls. Though busy, he says there was a lot of down time to meditate and reflect. This was hard for Luke, who admits he felt distant from God at times.

"It was a rough environment, and I faced a lot of challenges during the school year. I was screaming to God, 'Why am I here? What is my purpose?'" he remembers.

Despite these feelings, Luke claims God worked out every situation and put an inner fire in him to stay motivated and complete his work. He was taught lessons he will never forget: patience, perseverance and making a difference.

Luke encourages anyone considering student missions to pray about the decision and ask for God's direction.

"Realize that what you do is just a small part in a bigger plan that God has," he says. "Don't be discouraged by the fact that it sometimes feels like you're not making a difference, because in the long term, you are!"

Currently, Luke is finishing his first year in the physical therapy program. He hopes to continue making a difference in the world by helping people in his profession and getting them back to function.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she is majoring in physical therapy at Andrews University.

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